

After a brief discussion, the Applicant and the Examiner concurred that neither of EP '006 nor Mrtyka '370 is a proper prior art reference against the claims of the present Reissue Application. For that reason, claims 1, 3-7, 22-27, 30, 31 and 33 and claims 2, 28, 29 and 32, as submitted, are allowable over the art of record in this case. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections of claims 1, 3-7, 22-27, 30, 31 and 33 and allow claims 1-13 and 22-33 as originally submitted.

Lastly, the Examiner pointed out that the present Reissue Application cannot be allowed until the corresponding originally issued Letters Patent is surrendered to the United States Patent and Trademark Office. For this reason and in anticipation of the allowance of the claims as requested above, the Applicant hereby encloses and surrenders original Letters Patent No. 6,572,507.

If any further amendment to this application is believed necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable form, the Examiner is courteously solicited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the raised rejection(s) should be withdrawn at this time and that the claims are now in condition for allowance. The Applicant therefore respectfully requests the reconsideration and withdrawal of all grounds for rejection of or objection to the claims, and the allowance of the claims as amended herein.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now placed in a condition for allowance. Action to that end, in the form of an early Notice of Allowance, is courteously solicited by the Applicant at this time.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,



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